Centre to the patients as per directions of the Chief Medical Officer;

(b) whether during the enquiry evidence has also come on record about the irregularities in the store including the non-maintenance of records and use of sub-standard material in the Centre; and

(c) if yes, the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Delhi University some allegations were made in the past that the Health Centre had been issuing outdated medicines to the patients. These allegations were looked into by the University, Delhi Administration and the Ministry of Health and they were found to be without any basis.

Larger seating capacity planes for Vayudoot

913. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to purchase planes with larger seating capacity for Vayudoot; and

(b) when would Vayudoot service on the Madras, Tanjore-Tinnevelli route become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Vayudoot has already started operations to Thanjavur and Madras. Since Tirunelvelli (Tinnevelli) does not have any operttional air-field, it would not be possible to specify a time frame by Vayudoot services can be provided there.

Health Scheme for Children in the Country

914. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the *Times of India* of 11th December, 1986 under the caption 'whom world neglects die young';

(b) if so, what are the reasons of death of children in India in massive scale; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to Save the life of the Indian Children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Government is aware of the news item.

(b) and (c) The major causes of child mortality in the country are diarrhoea, malnutrition, respiratory infection and communicable diseases. The associated factors are low socia-economic status and poor environmental sanitation.

The steps taken by the Government to reduce infant and child mortality include expansion of existing health infra-structure, training of health manpower, health education, adoption of risk approach, universal immunisation of children, control of diarrhoeal diseases, prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia and supplementary nutrition under the ICDS Scheme.

915. [Transferred to the 6th March, 1987].

Free Rail Passes

916. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons to whom the Railways have issued special free passes during the last three years; and

(b) what are the criteria for issuing such passes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Presumably the reference is to the issue of free Complimentary Card Passes. A List of Persons/Organisations to whom these Card Passes were issued during 1984, 1985 and 1986, is attached [See Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 35]

(b) Each case is considered based on the broad guidelines prepared in this regard.

Airports without Telephone Facility

917. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the airports in the country which do not have a telephone connection; and

(b) by when these airports are likely to be equipped with telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 16 airports do not, at present, have telephone connections. These airports are Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Gorakhpur, Cooch-Bihar, Zero, Passighat, Jorhat, Daparizo, Along, Tezu, Rupsi, Kamalpur, Ratnagiri, Surat, Nanded and Aizwal.

(b) Out of 16 airports listed above, sanction has been accorded to the provision of telephone connection at 8 airports viz. Aizwal, Cooch-Behar, Ratnagiri, Jorhat, Rupsi, Tezu, Daparizo and Kamalpur airports, which will have telepohnes as soon as the Department of Tele-Communication is able to extend the Exchange line from city to the airport. The Department of Tele-Communication has been requested to examine the feasibility of providing telephones at the remaining 8 airports viz. Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Gorakhpur, Zero, Passighat, Along, Surat and Nanded. Telephones will be provided at these airports as soon as that Department is able to provide connection.

Delay in District Pattern Delivery System in RMS

918. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the new District Pattern Delivery System in the RMS is causing delay in the delivery of articles; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revive the old "All Up Scheme" in the RMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. There is no delay to mails in the new district pattern system.

(b) "All Up Scheme" is different from district pattern system. Under "All Up Scheme" all first class mails (Postcards inland letters, letters, money orders etc.) are given air transmission without air-surcharge wherever advantageous. This method of giving air transmission to all first class mails is being followed and wherever advantageous expanded to cover new towns and cities, which are on the Vayudoot map also in addition to Indian Airlines Corporation.

Multi Drug Treatment for Leprosy Patients in the Country

919. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M.D.T. (Multi Drug Therapy) mode of treatment for leprosy patients is being made available in all the leprosy prone districts in the country, if so, the number of such districts in the country State-wise;

(b) if not, by when these districts will be covered by M.D.T.; and

(c) what is the financial assistance provided to various states by the Centre for M.D.T.?